

5/23: Notes trip 5/6/72 ff; Leander Perez; Stoner

During our travels after the TV show the night of 5/7 and in the Chase Park Plaza Hotel before it, I had numerous conversations with Jerry Ray about J.B. Stoner, with whom he had been living and for whom he had been working as a handyman at NSRP headquarters. Jerry was then going to Chicago to seek work and he seemed to be adequately funded.

I wanted him to understand my feelings about Stoner, not personal feelings but those having to do with Stoner's record in the Ray cases and what I frankly told Jerry was in my opinion an irreconcilable conflict of interest.

I had said that suppose in the course of checking out Louisiana leads Stoner or one he had working for him came to Leander Perez. (And I made clear that I could not have faith in the investigations of Stoner or any of his people, all of whom would color fact to conform to their beliefs.) Would Stoner elect to protect the interest of James or of Perez? Jerry admitted that there had been a friendly and financial relationship between the elder Perez and the NSRP or Stoner or both. The elder had given money, I think Jerry referred to a single contribution of \$5,000.

The continues with his family. Jerry said the son or a son was not as rabid as the father but that their sister is just like the old man. (I think she is married and that her name is Gelpi.) (JBYCC)

So, there is the continuing conflict of interest between James and Stoner and his friends. There is not only the continuing Perez support of the NSRP, but there is the Perez desire to protect their names and that of the father.

And, as I told ~~the~~ Jerry, the FBI had had an immediate interest in Perez as the money behind the job.